

Message Text

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UNCLAS BUJUMBURA 0143

FOR AF/EPS AND AID/SER/FM/RSD

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SUBJECT: SPECIAL SELF-HELP FUNDS; VEHICLES

REF: STATE 19566

1. THE HOSPITAL OF KIREMBA IS LOCATED IN NGOZI PROVINCE, THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED REGION OF BURUNDI. LAST YEAR, TWO DOCTORS AND FOUR NURSES, ALONG WITH LESS-QUALIFIED PERSONNEL, HANDLED NEARLY 3,000 HOSPITALIZATION CASES, 500 OF WHICH WERE MATERNITY-RELATED; PERFORMED 900 OPERATIONS, 300 OF WHICH WERE MAJOR; EXAMINED 26,000 LABORATORY SPECIMENS; TOOK 2,500 X-RAYS; AND HELD 13,000 PRE-NATAL AND PEDIATRIC CONSULTATIONS.

2. GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTES FIVE PERCENT OF THE FUNDS REQUIRED TO RUN THE HOSPITAL. HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY CHARGES BRING IN ANOTHER THIRTY

PERCENT, AND ITALIAN MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE THE BALANCE. THE LATTER ARE UNABLE, HOWEVER, TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF A LAND ROVER CAPABLE OF BEING USED IN THE BUSH AND ON HILLY PATHS. THE VEHICLE AND ESSENTIAL SPARE
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PARTS SELLS FOR ABOUT 11,000 DOLLARS IN BUJUMBURA.

3. THE MISSION AT NYANGWA WHICH SERVES A POPULATION OF 50,000 IS ASKING FOR A PEUGEOT 504 TO TRANSPORT WOMEN ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH TO A MATERNITY CLINIC FIFTEEN MILES AWAY AND THE SERIOUSLY ILL TO GITEGA HOSPITAL, THIRTY MILES AWAY ALONG WINDING ROADS.

THE PEUGEOT, WHICH SELLS FOR ABOUT 9,000 DOLLARS, ESSENTIAL SPARE PARTS INCLUDED, WOULD ALSO BE USED TO VISIT AS MANY OF THE PARISHIONERS AS POSSIBLE. THREE EXTENSION WORKERS, NOW WALKING ON AN AVERAGE OF FIFTEEN MILES TWICE A WEEK, HAVE TIME TO DEMONSTRATE TO ONLY 150 PEOPLE VARIOUS TECHNIQUES WHEREBY THEY CAN IMPROVE THEIR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND NUTRITIONAL BALANCE. ADDITIONALLY, THE MISSION TREATS ABOUT 200 CASES A DAY IN ITS DISPENSARY AND HAS ENROLLED 150 BOYS AND GIRLS IN SEWING AND BASIC CONSTRUCTION COURSES. THE MISSION, INDEPENDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT, RELIES ON SELF-FINANCING AND CHARITY TO KEEP ITSELF GOING.

4. THE FINANCING BEING PUT IN THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF EACH POTENTIAL RECIPIENT CAN BE EASILY VALUED AT MORE THAN 25 PERCENT OF THE COST OF THE VEHICLES ASKED FOR. FURTHERMORE, FUNDING BOTH PROJECTS WOULD ENGENDER SUBSTANTIAL GOOD WILL FOR THE UNITED STATES. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOWEVER, MEETING THE NORMAL AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL NEEDS OF THE LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE INVOLVED, AS WELL AS TEACHING THEM SKILLS, INEVITABLY IMPROVES THEIR HEALTH AND ECONOMIC STANDARDS. BESIDES, OUR CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE A ONE-TIME AFFAIR AS BOTH PROJECT SPONSORS HAVE SAID THAT SPARE PARTS, AND THE UNCLASSIFIED

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OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS OVER THE ANTICIPATED LIFE OF THE VEHICLES WOULD BE MET OUT OF THE OPERATING BUDGETS. MAJOR REPAIRS WOULD ALSO BE DONE BY EXPERIENCED VOLUNTEERS. GOULD

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